



ASSEMBLYMEMBER
KAREN BASS
MAJORITY FLOOR LEADER
Representing the 47th Assembly District



Issue Three

District Newsletter

Spring 2007

Message from Karen

This legislative session has been very busy but I am excited about all the things that we have accomplished to date. At the Capitol, we have developed a very solid legislative agenda that focuses on health, education and the environment.

My legislative package includes bills that will continue to bridge the disparity gap for the most vulnerable communities as well as create opportunities to move our state forward. Foster Care Reform is still one of my top priorities. We will continue to put pressure on the Administration to do right by California's more than 80,000 foster youth.

We have had some exciting and informational events in the District as well as at the Capitol. This year's 47th Assembly District Woman of the Year is phenomenal and she has made an lasting impact in our District.

As many of you know, the Westside

residents have been fighting to ensure that veterans will continue to have a place to obtain needed services and support in our community. Learn how they took action in their community and made things happen.

I want you to get involved in making a difference in the 47th Assembly District. There is information in this issue on organizing that you will find helpful.

As we approach the coming months, I look forward to hosting more events and activities. Your participation is crucial to our success. I encourage you to get involved in your neighborhood as well as the District as a whole.

For information on volunteering in my office, please call (323) 937-4747.

To find out about specific legislation
or to track a bill log on to
www.legislature.ca.gov

Join the 47th Assembly District People's Council
and get involved in the process to make a difference in
the District...see page 5 for more details

FROM THE CAPITOL



New Members of the Select Committee on Foster Care

Majority Leader Bass announced the new members of the Assembly Select Committee on Foster Care, which she serves as the chair. The bi-partisan Select Committee will continue to help address the issues that affect more than 80,000 foster youth in California.

“It is our responsibility to make sure that we take care of the children of our state. We made remarkable strides but there is still much to do including ensuring that the accomplishments and the funds allocated during the last session are appropriately being implemented throughout the state. Our goal is to keep foster care reform at the top of the list of priorities.”

During this session, the Select Committee will continue to create avenues for foster youth and stakeholders to have a voice in foster care reform. It will send a strong message that foster care was not “done” last year – there is a lot of work that remains to be done on this issue.

Caregivers and services providers have not received a rate increase since 2001 and in many cases social workers have doubled their caseloads. This year the Select Committee and leaders in the both houses have introduced a legislative package of more than 30 measures focusing on topics such as caregiver issues, youth services, education and health. In addition to looking at state budget issues, the Select Committee is looking at federal funding opportunities and resources.

On recent visits in Washington DC, the Assembly Leadership met with the California Congressional representatives to discuss the needs and issues faced by youth and their families in child welfare. The two levels of government agreed to work together on this issue.

On June 14, the Select Committee will conduct a hearing at the Capitol on the implementation of last year’s efforts. Other hearings will be held on mental health and foster youth crossing over into the juvenile justice system.

Specifically in mental health, the Select Committee will look at the way children and families received resources through the implementation of Prop 63.

Overall, the goal is to continue to build the foster care network around the state, public awareness about the issue, and collaboration between the Legislature, the Administration, and the systems providing these vital services.

Assemblymembers appointed by Speaker Fabian Núñez to the Select Committee on Foster Care include:

- Karen Bass (D-Los Angeles), chair
- Bill Maze(R-Visalia), vice chair
- Jim Beall, Jr. (D- San Jose)
- Patty Berg (D-Del Norte Humboldt)
- Tom Berryhill (R-Modesto)
- Noreen Evans (D-Napa)
- Ted Gaines (R-Roseville)
- Lori Hancock (D-Berkeley)
- Shirley Horton (R- San Diego)
- Dave Jones (D-San Francisco)
- Mark Leno (D-San Francisco)
- Fiona Ma (D-San Francisco)
- Roger Niello (R-Fair Oaks)
- Nicole Parra (D-Hanford)
- Anthony Portantino (D-Pasadena)
- Sharon Runner (R-Lancaster)
- Ira Ruskin (D-Los Altos)
- Nell Soto (D-Pomona)

**For updates on Foster Care log
on to my web site**

<http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a47>

USEFUL INFORMATION

Department of Children and Family Services	(213) 351-5602
• Emancipation Services	(213) 351-0111
• Housing Services	(213) 351-0184
• Transitional Housing (THP)	(213) 351-0190
• Pre-Emancipation Housing (THPP)	(213) 351-0110
Los Angeles County Emancipation Ombudsman	(626) 229-3830
California State Foster Care Ombudsman	(877) 846-1602
Chafee ILP Grants	www.chafee.csac.ca.gov

47th Assembly District
Health Fair
Rancho Cienega Park
July 21, 2007
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
For more information contact (323) 937-4747

**For Volunteer or for Internship Opportunities at the
District Office call (323) 937-4747
or at the Capitol Office
call (916) 319-2047**

AROUND THE DISTRICT

The People's Council

Small Business Commission

Organize small businesses in the 47th Assembly District to take advantage of State contracts and business opportunities

CO-CHAIRS

Dan Cohen

Co-owner
The Kitchen Store

Meron Ahadu

Public Relations Officer
The Ethiopian-American Advocacy Group

Health Commission

Organize health fairs and educational presentations on key health policy issues as well as health education on diabetes, heart disease, etc.

CHAIR

Karen Earl

Executive Director
The Jenesse Center

Education Commission

Participate in town hall meetings to discuss key education policies as well as organize community fairs to ensure youth take advantage of federal and state programs

CO-CHAIRS

Barbara Honig

Assistant Principal
Fairburn Elementary School

Sandra Sealy

Director of Education and Youth Development
United Way of Los Angeles

Environment Commission

Share the concerns and monitor key environmental policies affecting the 47th Assembly District as well as the State

CHAIR

Charles Stringer

Principal and General Counsel
The Renewable Resources Group

To get involved in the 47th Assembly District
People's Council call (323) 937-4747



**Meron Ahadu
Selected
as the
47th Assembly
District's Woman
of the Year**

In a ceremony at the State Capitol, Majority Leader Bass honored community activist **Meron Ahadu** as the 47th Assembly District's Woman of the Year in celebration of Women's History Month.

Ahadu, an Ethiopian-American who immigrated to the United States in 1981, has been a community activist for the Ethiopian community for more than 20 years. As one of the founders of the Ethiopian-American Advocacy Group, she has served as a pillar in the community and has garnered statewide attention for the issues affecting Ethiopian Americans throughout Los Angeles. She also led the efforts to securing formal recognition of Little Ethiopia, a vibrant, diverse business community located in the 47th Assembly District.

"I am proud to honor Meron Ahadu as Woman of the Year. She has been a great inspiration to me and the community and has made a significant contribution to the District as well as the state."

Each year, the California State Assembly honors women who have demonstrated leadership and extraordinary community service within their districts. Along with her organization, Ahadu has educated the Ethiopian-American community about the importance of getting involved in the American political system through voter registration drives and get-out the-vote campaigns. She has a Masters Degree in Management and serves as the chair of the 47th Assembly District's Small Business Commission.

Autism Roundtable

In April, the Education and Health Commissions held a joint roundtable on Autism bringing together more than 60 advocates, educators, service providers and parents of children with Autism. The roundtable included a panel discussion with Dr. Pegeen Cronin from UCLA's Autism Evaluation Clinic, grandparent and activist Karen Lee and Dr. Laurie Stephens from the Help Group. Barbara Honig, co-chair of the Education Commission served as the moderator. The event also included a resource fair to provide attendees with valuable information on Autism and support services. As a result of this event, a support group was developed for fathers with children who have been diagnosed with Autism.

The Help Group, the nation's largest organization that serves children with special needs including Autism, served as the co-sponsor and hosted the event at its Village Green School, which is located in the 47th Assembly District.

Did you know?

- Today, autism is estimated to affect as many as one in every 150 children.
- Autism Spectrum Disorder is the fastest growing serious developmental disability in the United States. It is more prevalent than childhood cancer, juvenile diabetes, and pediatric AIDS combined.
- The number of students with autism enrolled in grades K-12 in California schools has increased over 1,000% during the past 22 years

For more information on autism and policy initiatives related to the disorder, go to <http://senweb03.senate.ca.gov/autism/index.html>

People's Council Hosted Health Care Policy Town Hall

Majority Leader Bass and the 47th Assembly District People's Council hosted a town hall meeting asking the question "Revolution in California's Health Care System?" with Senator Sheila Kuehl, author of Senate Bill 840 – California Universal Health Care Act. More than 200 people attended the event to discuss health care reform. Scott Bain, special assistant to Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez, was also on hand to discuss the Speaker's healthcare reform legislation, Assembly Bill 8.

The purpose of the town hall was to provide residents with information on the legislative proposals as well as current issues in healthcare policy reform. In 2006, there were 6.6 million people who were uninsured – over a million were children. This year, state lawmakers will decide on policies to make health care available, affordable and accessible for all Californians.

For more information on Health Care policy, log on to <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/>.

Supervisor Burke Announces Moratorium on Oil Drilling in Baldwin Hills

In response to community concerns, Supervisor Burke has proposed a temporary moratorium on oil drilling in Baldwin Hills. The proposed moratorium on oil drilling, as well as the forthcoming environmental impact report (EIR) will provide clarity on the impact of oil drilling on the community and park.

The current Interim Ordinance on Baldwin Hills oil drilling is set to expire on June 26, 2007. This latest ordinance will extend and modify the previous Interim Ordinance for a period of one year to June 26, 2008.

"It is important that we have a complete understanding of this issue. Although the community is rich in resources, they should not be obtained by jeopardizing the residents and the community as a whole." --- Majority Leader Bass

Frequently Asked Questions

How can I schedule Assemblymember Bass to speak at our event?

I am always open to speak at events throughout the community. Contact my scheduler at 916-319-2047 or fax your request to (916) 319-2147.

I would like to have Assemblymember Bass attend my event, what do I need to do?

You can send an invitation to my office by mail or fax.

Assemblymember Karen Bass
Capitol Office
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento CA 94249-0047
916-319-2147 fax

How can I have Assemblymember Bass acknowledge our event?

I can provide a certificate or a welcome message for your event. All I need is the following information:

- Name of the organization
- Event name
- Date of the event
- Biographies of people being recognized
- Deadline

You can send this information to my District Office at

5750 Wilshire Blvd Suite 565 Los Angeles, CA 90036 or fax it to 323-937-3466

District Office Services

My staff can assist you with

- Renters/homeowners assistance programs
- Property tax postponement
- Government forms
- Department of Motor Vehicles
- Consumer complaints
- State Franchise Tax Board
- Unemployment and disability insurance
- Medicare and Medi-Cal
- Veterans' affairs

Contact the District Office at (323) 937-4747 or log on to
<http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a47>
for more information on events or activities in the District



Pictured (l-to-r): Judy Monia, Patricia Kelly Jackson, Quinton James, Sandra Sealy, Mary Keipp, Michelle Woolner, Majority Leader Bass, Stan Hebert, Dr. Evelyn Metoyer Williams, English Heisser, Jackie Hawthorne and Nyora Higgs

Education Commission Members Visit the Capitol

Members of the 47th Assembly District's Education Commission traveled to the Capitol in Sacramento to visit Majority Leader Bass. While at the Capitol, members had the opportunity to meet with other legislators and educational analysts to discuss current education legislation and budget issues. The members were also introduced on the Assembly floor.

Award winning actor Danny Glover poses with Legislative Black Caucus members in Majority Leader Bass' office at the Capitol.



Coalition of Leaders Stop Plans for Federal Building Site Plan

Majority Leader Bass applauds the efforts of a coalition of leaders that led to the General Service Administration's announcement that it would not develop the Western Regional FBI Headquarters at 11000 Wilshire Blvd, the current Federal Building site.

"I applaud the efforts of residents, businesses and many elected officials who worked tirelessly to fight the plan to erect the FBI headquarters, which would be a one million square foot building in an area with existing traffic constraints. This land was donated for veteran's use and should not be utilized for any other reason. They are the people who protect our country and many others around the world. It is our responsibility to ensure that they have a place to come to when they are in need of services and support. I will continue to offer my support and resources to make sure that the whole community has a voice in the decision."

For more information on this issue, log on to www.coalitionforveteransland.com.

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Haas Auto Stereo

Jeff Haas established Haas Auto Stereo in 1978 in a 2-car garage. He had purchased a 1077 Porsche 911S and wanted to install a great sound system. He put his motto, "if you want something done correctly, do it yourself," to work. Twenty-eight years later, the company changed its name to Haas Entertainment and has grown into a 17,000 square foot facility at 5774 Uplander Way in Culver City. It now sells and installs automotive electronics, studio and video products for home and businesses. Jeff serves as vice chair for the Culver City Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. Haas Entertainment has been named the 47th Assembly District's Small Business of the Year. Majority Leader Bass and the Small Business Administration recently honored Jeff for receiving this award in Sacramento.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



DARLA CLAYPOOL

Darla V. Claypool has recently been appointed to the 47th Assembly District's Health Commission. As Director of Development in the Food Industries Circle for the City of Hope she is responsible for fund raising and event planning. Before her husband succumbed to cancer, it was the City of Hope that provided the best professional care possible.

Since becoming a member of the Health Commission, Darla has volunteered to support various People's Council events including the Health Care Policy and the State of Black California Los Angeles Town Hall Meetings. A native of Southern California, Darla graduated from Los Angeles public schools and attended California State University Dominguez Hills and UCLA's Public Relations/Fundraising Certificate Program. She also worked with Los Angeles elected officials including the late Councilman Gilbert Lindsay and former Councilman Robert Farrell.

One of her pleasures in life is raising her two teen-age daughters Jasmine and Jessica.

ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT

iCare Foundation

The iCare Foundation is a non-profit organization committed to changing the image of foster care and improving the quality of life for children in the foster care system. The iCare Foundation was founded by six-time Grammy nominated, R&B Hall Of Fame Living Legend, former foster youth Kashif, who won the hearts of millions of music lovers through his pioneering sound which dominated R&B charts in the 80's. Yet, Kashif believes iCare Foundation will be his most important body of work. For more information about iCare Foundation, log on to www.teamicare.com.

State of Black California Town Hall Meetings



State of Black California Town Hall Meetings

California Legislative Black Caucus held three town hall meetings on the State of Black California report, which was published earlier this year. Residents in Los Angeles, Oakland and the Inland Empire were able to learn about the results of the report as well as the legislative proposals introduced by each LBC member.

The report provided a snap shot of the status of Blacks throughout the state. Each member introduced specific legislation to address the disparity gaps outlined in the report. Attendees were able to ask Caucus members questions about the report as well as provide testimony on their specific issues on the quality of life in their community.

To download the report, log on to <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a47/stateblack.htm>

**If you have any questions or concerns, contact my District Office
at (323) 937-4747 or my Capitol Office at (916) 319-2047**

Contact Information

Capitol Office: State Capitol, P.O. Box 942849 | Sacramento, CA 94249-0047 | Tel: (916) 319-2047 | Fax: (916) 319-2147

District Office: 5750 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 565 | Los Angeles, CA 90036 | Tel: (323) 937-4747 | Fax: (323) 937-3466

<http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a47>